AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device having enhanced radiopacity, comprising:

a structural body formed from a biocompatible material having a certain level of radiopacity, the structural body including at least one marker holder integrally formed therein; and

a radiopaque marker made from a material having a level of radiopacity greater than the level of radiopacity of the biocompatible material from which the structural body is formed, the radiopaque marker being attachable within the marker holder, wherein the marker holder includes a pair of projecting fingers which define [an] a substantially V-shaped opening and the radiopaque marker includes a substantially V-shaped mounting region which fits within the V-shaped opening defined by the projecting fingers.

2. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the radiopaque marker is attached to the projecting fingers of the marker holder by a heat weld.

3. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 1, wherein the projecting fingers are connected at a notched region which allows the projecting fingers to move laterally to accept the radiopaque marker.

4. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 3, wherein ~~the radiopaque marker has a region which fits within the opening defined~~

~~by the projecting fingers of the marker holder and~~ the radiopaque marker and projecting fingers are bonded together by a heat weld.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim [2] 1, wherein the V- shaped opening defined by the projecting fingers defines a particular first angle when the pair of projecting fingers are unattached to the marker and the V-shaped mounting region of the radiopaque marker defines an angle which is larger than the first angle of the V-shaped opening.

7. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 3, wherein the mounting region of the radiopaque marker ~~has a region adapted to fit within the opening defined by the projecting fingers that is~~ larger than the opening defined by the projecting fingers.

8. (Currently Amended) An implantable medical device having enhanced radiopacity, comprising:

a structural body formed from a superelastic alloy having a certain level of radiopacity, the structural body including at least one marker holder; and

a radiopaque marker made from a nickel-titanium alloy including a ternary element which attains a level of radiopacity greater than the level of radiopacity of the superelastic alloy from which the structural body is formed, the radiopaque marker being attachable within the marker holder, wherein the marker holder includes a pair of projecting fingers which define a substantially V-shaped opening and the radiopaque marker includes a substantially V-shaped mounting region that fits within the V-shaped opening defined by the projecting fingers.

9. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the ternary element is selected from the group of elements consisting of iridium,

platinum, gold, rhenium, tungsten, palladium, rhodium, tantalum, silver, ruthenium, and hafnium.

10. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the ternary element is platinum and the atomic percent of platinum is greater than or equal to 2.5 and less than or equal to 15.

11. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the superelastic alloy is nickel-titanium alloy.

12. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 11, wherein the structural body includes a plurality of marker holders integrally formed with the structural body and the medical device includes a plurality of radiopaque markers attachable to the marker holders.

13. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 11, wherein the radiopaque marker is attached to the marker holder by melting a portion of the radiopaque marker and/or the marker holder.

14. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the radiopaque marker is attached to the marker holder by a heat weld.

15. (Original) The implantable medical device of claim 8, wherein the structural body is a stent.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim [16] 15, wherein the radiopaque marker is attached to the projecting fingers of the marker holder by a heat weld.

18. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim [16] 8, wherein the projecting fingers are connected at a notched region which allows the projecting fingers to move laterally to accept the radiopaque marker.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim [20] 8, wherein the V- shaped opening defined by the projecting fingers defines a particular first angle when the projecting fingers are unattached to the radiopaque marker and the V-shaped region of the radiopaque marker defines an angle which is larger than the first angle of the V-shaped opening.

22-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 4, wherein the mounting region of the radiopaque marker which fits within the opening defined by the projecting fingers of the marker holder is slightly larger than the opening.

33. (Currently Amended) The implantable medical device of claim 4, wherein the opening defined by the projecting fingers has a particular shape and the mounting region of the radiopaque marker which fits within the opening is slightly larger than the opening.

34. (New) A method for making an implantable medical device having enhanced radiopacity, comprising:

providing a structural body made from a biocompatible material having a certain level of radiopacity, the structural body including at least one marker holder including a pair of projecting fingers that can move laterally relative to each other, the projecting fingers defining an opening therebetween;

providing a radiopaque marker having a level of radiopacity greater than the level of radiopacity of the biocompatible material making up the structural body, the radiopaque marker including a mounting region that is larger than the opening defined by the projecting fingers; and

placing the mounting region of the radiopaque marker in contact with the projecting fingers of a marker holder to increase the size of the opening created by the projecting fingers.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, further including:
welding the radiopaque marker to the marker holder.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, further including:
heat welding the radiopaque marker and the marker holder together.

37. (New) A method for making an implantable medical device having enhanced radiopacity, comprising:

providing a structural body from a biocompatible material, the structural body including at least one marker holder including a pair of projecting fingers that can move laterally relative to each other, the projecting fingers defining an substantially V-shaped opening therebetween;

providing a radiopaque marker having greater radiopacity than the biocompatible material making up the structural body, the radiopaque marker including a substantially V-shaped mounting region; and

placing the mounting region of the radiopaque marker in contact with the projecting fingers of a marker holder.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein:

the V-shaped mounting region of the radiopaque marker is larger than the V-shaped opening of the marker holder.

39. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein:

the V- shaped opening defined by the projecting fingers has a particular angle when the projecting fingers are unattached to the radiopaque marker and the V-shaped region of the radiopaque marker defines an angle which is larger than the first angle of the V-shaped opening and causes the projecting fingers to move laterally away from each other when the radiopaque marker is placed within the V-shaped opening.

40. (New) The method of claim 37, further including:

heat welding the radiopaque marker and the marker holder together.

41. (New) The method of claim 37, further including:

welding the radiopaque marker to the marker holder.